

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of
the City Council of the City of Rye held in
City Hall on February 16, 2000 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

STEVEN OTIS, Mayor
CAROLYN CUNNINGHAM
ROBERTA DOWNING
ROBERT H. HUTCHINGS
ROSAMOND LARR
DOUGLAS MCKEAN
ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN
Councilmen

ABSENT:

NONE

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Otis invited the audience to join the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Otis called the meeting to order; a quorum was present to conduct official city business.

3. Residents may be heard who have matters to discuss that do not appear on the agenda

There were no residents wishing to be heard on matters to discuss that do not appear on the agenda.

4. Discussion of Westchester County's Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program

Mayor Otis apprised the Council that he attended a meeting of the Westchester County Council of Governments. He received Westchester County's Health Commissioner's Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program entitled "Westchester County's Operation Mosquito S.T.I.N.G. (Stop the Insects' Next Generation).

Interim City Manager Christopher Bradbury highlighted the city's accomplishments from last year and plans for mosquito control this year. He stressed the need for public information and outreach. City Naturalist Chantal Detlefs will be the contact person and the main provider of information, while

Rye Cable Television and the City of Rye's website will also be instrumental in disseminating information to the residents. He said that larger briquettes were placed in the catch basins and repellent was distributed and available through the Rye City Fire Department.

In response to Councilman Stampleman's question, Interim City Manager Bradbury said that sitting water is more problematic for mosquito breeding grounds than the catch basins.

Mayor Otis explained that the West Nile mosquitoes associate with civilization and breed in puddles of standing water, discarded tires, and bird baths. He said that the City of Rye has worked very diligently on controlling mosquitos for several years. Westchester County will test for larvae; the results of this monitoring will be used for further planning for mosquito control.

5. Discussion of In-Service Training for City Employees

Mayor Otis said that the basic goal of this discussion is to evaluate and review the in-service training programs available for city employees.

Interim City Manager Bradbury noted that all departments will review the mandatory and non-mandatory in-service programs for the past two years. Mr. Jeffrey Stonehill, administrative assistant, will then draft a report for the council.

A brief council discussion focused on matching grants for continuing education, budgeting for programs, technology seminars and in-service training for the Police, Fire, and Recreation Departments.

Councilman Stampleman recommended having workshops on public relations.

Mayor Otis expressed his appreciation to Interim City Manager Bradbury for working on this project.

6. Discussion of review of the use of the city's Right-of -Way

Mayor Otis acknowledged receiving other municipalities ordinances on the use of the right-of-way which have been distributed to the council. He stressed the importance of reviewing different legal issues on how to regulate the use of the city's right-of -way and how to obtain revenue for its use before making any decision on drafting a right-of-way law.

A council discussion ensued on municipalities which presently have a right-of-way ordinance, those preparing an ordinance, and the possibility of surveying Westchester Municipal Clerks for more ordinances on the right-of-way.

Councilman Stampleman suggested having a plan for drafting legislation on the use of the right-of-way for the March 1, 2000 council meeting.

Councilman Hutchings concurred that an organized plan is necessary to facilitate drafting legislation.

7. Discussion of Segmented Equalization Rate for Rye Neck School District

Mayor Otis said that the council can decide to file an appeal on the equalization rate for Rye Neck School District with the State Office of Real Property Services at this meeting or at the March 1, 2000 regular council meeting. He acknowledged the January 19, 2000 memo from Corporation Counsel Neale and the February 15, 2000 memo from City Assessor Noreen Whitty on the Equalization Rate for Rye Neck School District.

The consensus of the council was to have the appropriate documents prepared for an appeal.

Discussion focused on seeking some degree of property tax relief for City of Rye residents who own property within the Rye Neck City School District.

Councilman McKean made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stampleman, to instruct Corporation Counsel Neale and City Assessor Whitty to prepare the appropriate documents to challenge the equalization rate for Rye Neck School District.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Cunningham, Downing,
Hutchings, Larr, McKean, and Stampleman

NAYS:None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

8. Discussion of City of Rye and the School District's draft request for proposals for a joint traffic study

Mayor Otis apprised the council that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a City of Rye and the Rye City School District's joint traffic study is being finalized. He solicited comments from the council.

Councilman Stampleman suggested that the study examine whether there was any prohibition on the school paying for traffic control or subsidizing the cost of extra police.

Councilwoman Cunningham agreed that this is a question that needs to be reviewed in the study; however, it is premature for the RFP.

The Mayor asked the council to forward additional comments on the preparation of the RFP to Interim City Manager Bradbury.

9. Designation of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, by the Mayor

Mayor Otis designated Mr. George Pratt as chairman of the Finance Committee.

10. One appointment to the Conservation Commission/Advisory Council, by the Mayor with Council approval

This agenda item was postponed to a future council meeting.

11. Consideration of request from the Rye YMCA to use city streets on Sunday, April 9, 2000, for the 12th Annual Rye Derby

Councilwoman Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hutchings and unanimously carried, to approve request from the Rye YMCA to use city streets on Sunday, April 9, 2000, for the 12th Annual Rye Derby.

12. Draft unapproved minutes of the special meeting of the City Council held January 27, 2000 and the regular meeting of the City Council held February 2, 2000

Councilman McKean made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Downing and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the City Council held January 27, 2000, as amended.

Councilwoman Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Larr and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held February 2000, as amended.

13. Miscellaneous communications and reports

Mayor Otis said that he had attended a meeting at the County Office Building earlier today to discuss Water District No. 4. He apprised the Council that last fall there was a referendum on ballot to eliminate this Water District. However, the proposition failed. He said the issue before Westchester

County is to research the feasibility of condemning or buying out New York American Water Company to lower the rates. Presently, the county is considering updating the study and researching legal mechanisms to refund money to resident rate payers. The Mayor will forward a memo to the council and re-circulate the feasibility study. The next meeting is scheduled for sometime in April.

14. Old Business

A. Councilwoman Larr reported that the Commission on Human Rights is accomplishing much but needs more members. Although there are presently seven members, not every member attends each meeting. There are currently two vacancies. She solicited recruits by asking the viewing audience if anyone is interested in being a member of the Commission on Human Rights to contact her or send a resume to City Hall.

Mayor Otis said he will mention the need for additional membership in the next city newsletter.

B. Councilman Hutchings asked for a status report on Eastchester Town Supervisor James Cavanaugh's complaint with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) regarding two rate increases by Cablevision within one year.

Mayor Otis will follow-up on this matter since he has not heard from Mr. Cavanaugh.

15. New Business

Mayor Otis apprised the council that Judge Isaac Rubin has been ill. He suggested that the council send best wishes for his recovery and to thank him for everything he has done for City of Rye.

16. Adjournment

Councilman Stampleman made a motion, seconded by Councilman McKean to adjourn into an executive session to discuss land acquisition at 8:35 P.M.

The council reconvened at 9:33 P.M.

Councilman Stampleman made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Downing and unanimously carried, to adopt the following resolution:

***WHEREAS**, Judge Isaac Rubin, has been a respected member of the Bar and jurist for over sixty years and has served the City of Rye as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and City Court Judge with distinction and was elevated to the higher courts of the state; and*

***WHEREAS,** Judge Rubin's judicial experience includes serving as Westchester County Court Judge; Justice of the Supreme Court; member of the Appellate Division, Second Department; and served in various administrative judicial capacities in the 9th Judicial District; and*

***WHEREAS,** Judge Rubin has exemplified his commitment to his profession by his many accomplishments as president, member of the President's Council and director of the Westchester County Bar Association for over twenty years, president and director of the Mount Vernon Bar Association, and his membership in the New York State Bar Association; and*

***WHEREAS,** Judge Rubin has exemplified the highest level of excellence in his practice of the law and is well respected by his colleagues for his integrity, professionalism, and compassionate manner; and*

***WHEREAS,** the City of Rye has benefited from his wise judgment, exceptional skill, and his dedication to our community;*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Steven Otis, Mayor of the City of Rye, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby, commend and thank Judge Rubin for his distinguished service to the City of Rye and many others.*

Signed and sealed this 16th day of February, 2000.

SEAL

*Steven Otis
Mayor*

There being no further business to discuss, made a motion, seconded by and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice K. Conrad
City Clerk